



# The Cornerstone

## Summer 2011

### Homeowner Pursues a Bright Future

For Tanesia Comminey, homeownership is the foundation for personal success and fulfillment. She says, "The stability you get from owning your home allows you to do more with yourself and to contribute to your community."



*Tanesia working with fellow homeowner Lakecia Thompson in 2009*

When Tanesia joined the Habitat program in 2008, she was raising a young son and infant daughter and working as an activity assistant at a nursing home. Tanesia admits that completing her sweat equity hours was tough as a single, working mother, but she always stayed focused on the goal. "When it got hard," she says, "I thought about the end result and how much more it would mean to me and my children."

She gained confidence from her money skills classes, learning how to budget and "get back on track." She also drew on

the support and friendship of her fellow Habitat partner families. Her philosophy of hard work paid off on September 11, 2009, when she moved into a rehabbed house on Wyoming Street.



Tanesia is a model homeowner, current in her mortgage payments, and earning her social work degree from Sinclair Community College. She plans to eventually earn a master's degree in counseling. Her son, Tyre, 15, has become more outgoing since moving into a neighborhood that he can safely explore. He looks forward to starting high school this year, while his sister Armoni, 4, will begin kindergarten readiness school. Tanesia encourages single mothers in the program and points to her own family's success as an example.



*Dayton Ohio Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people from all walks of life to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent and affordable homes in safe communities where families can live and grow.*

# Corporate America steps up to serve our local community

When Carolyn received the key to her new home at 234 William Street in West Carrollton on August 5th, she became one of a unique group of Habitat homeowners whose home was sponsored by a multi-year partnership between GE Money and MetLife.

GE Money's relationship with Dayton Habitat began in 2001 and MetLife reached out to Habitat soon after in 2003. As their support grew, it became evident that they could make the greatest impact by working together. Since 2008, these two community-focused companies have collaborated to provide



*GE Money and MetLife Volunteers welcome Carolyn and Paula to their new home*

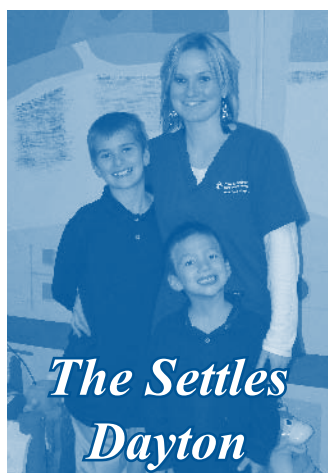
funding and volunteer labor every year to build a home for a hard-working family in Montgomery County. In addition to providing financial sponsorship for each house, both companies encourage volunteer participation from their employees, staffing many of the build days and participating in all stages of construction on the house. GE Money employees volunteer weekdays and MetLife employees volunteer on Saturdays.

Carolyn has lived in the Dayton area her entire life and, with the help of GE Money, MetLife, and many other supporters, is excited to own a home in the community she loves where she can live with her disabled adult daughter, Paula. The Lake family's former apartment did not meet Paula's needs; the hallways were too narrow

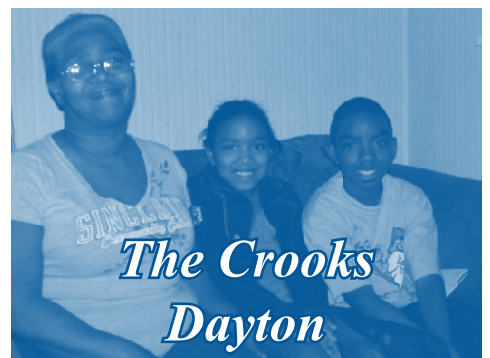
for her wheelchair to turn fully and the bathroom was not handicap-accessible. Their new home is completely wheelchair accessible with three foot doors in all rooms as well as a kitchen built to accommodate Paula's needs, giving her much more independence. It also features a wider garage built for wheelchair-accessible van access.



*The Modi/Pitiyas  
Kettering*



*The Settles  
Dayton*



*The Crooks  
Dayton*



*The Twagirayezus  
Riverside*

*Welcome  
Our Newest  
Homeowners*



*The Lakes  
West Carrollton*

## Leave a Legacy

Members of our Hearts & Hammers Legacy Society ensure future Habitat partner families are able to enjoy safe, decent, affordable homes. We were proud to honor all of our current members at our first Hearts & Hammers recognition event in May. By joining, these members have demonstrated their commitment to the future of the Habitat mission.

Thank you to our current Hearts & Hammers Legacy Society Members:

*Laura Arber*

*Thomas & Marianne Becker*

*Ralph & Janice Daniels*

*Diane & Frank Graham*

*Vicki Hendricks*

*Anna & Michael Magnusson*

*Burton & Alice Saidel*

*Heber & Elizabeth Short*

*Charles & Ann Simms*

*Troy Singer*

*Denise Swick*

For more information contact Frieda Brigner at (937) 586-0860 ext. 20 or by email at [fbrigner@daytonhabitat.org](mailto:fbrigner@daytonhabitat.org).



## Single Mom Learns New Skills at Women Build

Lynell Graham has been helping Katina Prather become a homeowner by volunteering at our 12th Women Build site in Trotwood for a little more than a month. She said she always wanted to volunteer with Habitat, but shared she was a bit scared of building.

Her former husband did all the “handyman tasks” throughout their marriage, during which time they acquired a post-civil war farm house. After an amicable divorce, Lynell and her 20 year-old daughter, Whitney, found themselves living in a home in constant need of major repairs. Lynell shared that as a newly single mom, she wanted to learn how to do the work herself and help other women find or keep their homes. To her, owning a home is very important.

When Lynell finally found the courage to call Habitat to volunteer at a build site, she learned about Women Build. Because she doubted her ability to learn home maintenance skills around men, Women Build really appealed to her, especially when she found out the site supervisor is a female.



“I have been delighted to work with Melody at Women Build. I couldn’t ask for a better, more patient teacher,” Lynell shared on a recent build day. “Women just listen and work differently sometimes. Now I am confident in my own abilities.”

Recently, Lynell bought siding from our Habitat ReStore to complete part of her current home renovation. She is excited that she has learned how to hang the new siding. This single mom is proud to have used her Habitat Women Build experience to make lemonade out of lemons.

To get involved with Women Build, contact Allison Craig at 937-586-0860 ext.10 or email [acraig@daytonhabitat.org](mailto:acraig@daytonhabitat.org).



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## *Good Tools, Great Cause, New Purpose*

Building with volunteer labor creates a special need for gently used tools in good condition; and building in multiple locations from West Carrollton to Union, from Riverside to Trotwood, as well as several Dayton neighborhoods, increases the need for more than one set. If you no longer need any of the following tools, donating them to Habitat for Humanity will help us help many families for a long time:

- Gas Weed Eaters and Chainsaws
- Wood Chipper/Shredder
- Circular Saws
- Cordless Drills
- Aluminum or Fiberglass Extension Ladders
- Step Ladders
- Scaffolding
- Metal Detector
- Sawzalls
- Tape Measures
- Small, Portable Table Saw
- Pliers
- Tin Snips
- Weed Mower/Brush Cutter

To donate these and other tools, please deliver them to Dayton, Ohio Habitat for Humanity, 3534 Linden Avenue, Dayton, OH 45410, Monday-Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or call (937) 586-0860, ext. 15, for more information.